

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 CPR-01 /069 W

-----033156 130940Z /15

R 130800Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1787

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 2671

1.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, YE, US

SUBJECT: AL-HAMDI VISIT TO U.S.

1. DURING JULY 11 MEETING, FOREIGN MINISTER ABDALLAH AL-ASNAJ EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NOW THAT PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI HAS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT FRANCE, USG WILL ALSO EXTEND AN INVITATION TO HIM FOR SIMILAR VISIT SOME TIME OVER NEXT TWELVE MONTHS, BUT IDEALLY NEXT SPRING. AL-ASNAJ POINTED OUT THAT THE YEMENI GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO ASKED THE BRITISH AND THE GERMAN GOVERNMENTS TO EXTEND SIMILAR INVITATIONS. AL-ASNAJ NOTED THAT THESE VISITS ARE IMPORTANT NOT ONLY TO PROVIDE AL-HAMDI THE CHANCE TO EDUCATE HIMSELF ABOUT THE WEST BUT ALSO TO STRENGTHEN AND ENCOURAGE THE FORCES OF MODERATION IN YEMEN.

2. COMMENT: WE ARE ALREADY ON RECORD AS RECOMMENDING THAT SUCH AN INVITATION BE EXTENDED. ALL OF THE OTHER PRO-WESTERN ARAB LEADERS HAVE AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER BEEN TO THE UNITED STATES WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ALHAMDI. AS AL-ASNAJ RIGHTLY POINTS OUT, SUCH A VISIT WOULD HAVE AN IMPORTANT PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT IN YEMEN AND COME AT A TIME WHEN OUR EFFORTS TO SUPPORT MODERATION HERE HAVE

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BEGUN TO BEAR FRUIT. MOREOVER, YEMEN SHOULD BE GIVEN RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT FOR ITS INCREASINGLY PRO-WESTERN POLICY ESPECIALLY WHEN VIEWED AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF GROWING SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AND OVER NEIGHBORING PDRY AND ETHIOPIA.

SCOTES

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009